



ERIE COUNTY COMPTROLLER
HON. STEFAN I. MYCHAJLIW

September 29, 2020

Dr. Gale Burstein
Commissioner
Erie County Department of Health
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Commissioner Burstein,

As part of the whistleblower process, we have received a number of complaints and concerns regarding Department of Health warnings, shutdowns, fines or other actions as a result of violations of COVID-19 regulations implemented to stop the spread of the disease. These questions vary from inquiring about the additional restrictions placed on businesses and the procedures that inspectors should use during an inspection, to the identities of businesses cited, and the amount of fines collected from those businesses.

In order to better respond to these concerned citizens, could you please supply us with the following information:

- Rules and regulations relevant to businesses that have been implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Policies and procedures implemented by the Erie County Health Department related to preventing the spread of COVID-19 at businesses and organizations.
- A list of businesses and organizations warned, cited and/or fined for violations of COVID-19 prevention measures.
- A list of fines assessed to these businesses and organizations.
- Specific reasons why businesses were warned, cited, fined or shut down, including but not limited to: patrons or employees not wearing masks, serving/eating communal food, service of alcohol without selling food and seating capacity compared to the number of customers in the establishment.

Please provide this information by October 8, 2020. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Stefan I. Mychajliw, Jr. is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Stefan I. Mychajliw, Jr.
Erie County Comptroller